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Envelopes of the Spinal Cord. — Sterzi has studied this subject from a comparative standpoint (*Anat. Anz.*, Bd. XVI, p. 230) and points out that in the fishes there is but a single envelope proper, the *meninx primitiva*. In the Amphibia two meninges are developed, a *meninx secundaria* and a *dura mater*, separated by a series of lymph spaces. In the mammals these are represented by the three well-known membranes. In development the various meninges are developed from a single *meninx primitiva* by the formation of lymph spaces. Above the *dura* is an epidural space, whose lateral walls are formed by the so-called "Kalkorgan," a membrane with numerous cavities, containing crystals of calcic carbonate, but which is not to be considered as one of the true envelopes of the cord. The *endorrhachis* is a strong fibrous membrane which serves as the periosteum of the spinal canal.

Origin of Mammals. — In the discussion on the origin of the mammals¹ recently held at the fourth international congress of zoölogy, Professor Seeley stated as his opinion that the anomodonts were not ancestors of the mammals, but that both groups had a common ancestor to be sought for in rocks earlier than the Permian. The forms thus far discovered, however, show so close a connection between reptiles and mammals that it is not reasonable to believe that future discoveries will seriously alter this assumed connection. Professor Osborn believed that much of the resemblance between reptiles and mammals was due to parallelism and pointed out that the mammal egg was more amphibian than reptilian in character. If the ancestor of the mammal was a reptile it was one that retained certain amphibian characters. Professor Marsh expressed the opinion that none of the fossil reptiles thus far known could be said to be a satisfactory ancestral representative of the mammals and suggested the origin of this group from primitive amphibians. Professor Haeckel argued for the monophyletic origin of placental mammals from one marsupial ancestor. Mr. Sedgwick thought the question of the origin of mammals was possibly insoluble from the facts that embryological evidence is not sufficiently conclusive and that the paleontological remains are too fragmentary. Professor Hubrecht defended the view that mammals may have had a polyphyletic origin and raised the question whether mammals other than monotremes had descended from oviparous ancestors.

G. H. P.

¹ The Origin of Mammals, *Proc. Fourth Internat. Congress Zool.*, pp. 68-75. 1899.